



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES February 26, 2008

J. Robert Galvin, MD, MBA, MPH, Commissioner, (860) 509-7101

Senate Bill 32 - An Act Concerning the Financial Condition of Nursing Homes

The Department of Public Health supports Senate Bill 32 and Governor Rell's efforts to strengthen nursing home financial and quality in care oversight.

This proposal will help keep residents safe by monitoring changes of ownership and additions and terminations of functions or services. Facilities will need to provide a letter of intent to the Department of Social Services and the Long Term Care Ombudsman office.

Section 2 requires the Commissioner of Public Health to issue or renew a nursing home license only if the applicant establishes that a single entity owns both the nursing home business and the real estate on which the nursing home is located. The language is intended to focus on new licensees and any changes in ownership.

Section 4 will provide a forum for formally sharing information regarding certain nursing homes that may pose a risk to patients due to financial viability or care and service issues. The Department looks forward to working with the Nursing Home Financial Advisory Committee.

The Department of Public Health encourages your support of this important initiative.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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